

RUNNING
FOR OFFICE?

Gain more impact by
advertising in the Holmes
County Herald Newspaper!

Call 662-834-1151
to find out how.

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF THE MISSISSIPPI DELTA

KICK BUTTS DAY
ON PAGE 6!

Serving
Holmes
County
Since
1959

HOLMES COUNTY

HERALD

THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 2019

ONE SECTION

LEXINGTON, MISSISSIPPI 39095

VOLUME 61 - NUMBER 13

Arrests made, car recovered in March 21 kidnapping

By Matthew Breazeale

Three arrests were made in relation to a carjacking and kidnapping of a Durant man from his home in the early morning hours of Thursday, March 21.

According to Holmes County Sheriff Willie March, Denzell Williams was forced from his home in Durant by two suspects. Williams was kidnapped from Durant to West and back to his Durant home.

“This young man (Williams) had reported that he and his mother had been robbed,” said March. “... he had been taken to West, by two armed men, they hit him in the back of the head, hit him in the face, then put him in the car. They drove him over to West from Durant, then back to Durant, at his mother’s residence. They forced him to go into the house and see if there was any money. They came in



The Holmes County Sheriff’s Department issued a statement last week noting that the missing 1999 Chevy Cavalier SD Light Blue (pictured above) in color TAG# HLA0340 had been located on Friday, March 22, on Long Ranch Road, in West. (Photo submitted)

with him.”

March said the two armed men were reportedly wearing masks and at some point adjusted their masks, letting Williams see their faces.

“He didn’t know them by

name,” said March, “but he knew them when he saw them (later). They took the money and the car, (Williams) ran back in the house, and called the Durant Police

(Continued on page 8.)

‘Strong Communities’ emphasis for 2019 National Library Week

Staff Reports

National Library Week is an annual celebration highlighting the valuable role libraries, librarians, and library workers play in transforming lives and strengthening our communities.

This year’s theme, Libraries = Strong Communities, illustrates how today’s libraries are at the heart of cities, towns, schools and campuses, providing critical resources, programs and expertise. They also provide a public space where all community members, regardless of age, culture or income level, can come together to connect and learn.

Library programs are designed to encourage com-



munity members to meet work together using new and discuss civic issues,

(Continued on page 8.)

Future in question for Pickens’ only grocery store

By Matthew Breazeale

Half empty store shelves was the reality for Pickens’ only grocer on Thursday, March 21 as concerns mount for the future of the MS Highway 51 business.

Pickens Mayor William Primer says citizens have voiced their worries to him about the poorly stocked store amid concern that it might be closing.

“There are more than 530 Piggly Wiggly stores serving communities in 17 states. All Piggly Wiggly stores are independently owned and operated, and though they are located primarily in the Southeast, there are Piggly Wiggly stores and as far north as Wisconsin. Piggly Wiggly, LLC’s corporate headquarters are in Keene, N.H.,” all according to the corporate website.

Primer said he spoke with local store owner Glenda Rushing, based out of the Canton location, on the issue.

“The last time I talked to (Glenda Rushing) was a month ago. She told me the store wasn’t closing,” said Primer. “That they were making some changes. That was

the last time I talked to her. They were supposed to restock it in about two weeks, which would have been like the first of March. It looks like to me they haven’t done any restocking. So I just don’t know, I’m hoping they are not closing, hoping she was going on and try to do what she said.”

On Thursday, March 21, there was no fresh fruit or vegetables, according to local residents and Herald Editor Matthew Breazeale.

I just got to talk to some (residents) today,” Primer said on Thursday, March 21. “They were hoping (Piggly Wiggly) would stay open. As a matter of fact, I took a lady to the store today to buy groceries and she was telling me there wasn’t anything in the store. She went to get some vegetables, there was none there. She was just worried about it, if we’re going to have a grocery store. I’m worried about it too because we do need the tax base. A little town like Pickens, it hurts us when we don’t have that tax base.”

Brookhaven newspaper The Daily Leader, reported

on March 20 that a deal fell through for Rushing to sell her Brookhaven location to another company.

“Danny Manning, who owns several Piggly Wiggly stores in Fairhope, Daphne and Mobile, Alabama, planned to purchase six of the seven Piggly Wiggly stores owned by Glenda Rushing, but pulled out of the deal March 8. Rushing owns the property and building at 215 Hwy. 51 N. A New York company, Brookhaven Retail LLC, owns the building and property at 364 W. Monticello St., though Rushing owns and operates the Piggly Wiggly there. The Hwy. 51 Pig is closed and while the Monticello Street Pig is open, the deli is closed and shelves are mostly bare,” reports The Daily Leader.

The closing of Pickens’ only grocer would only contribute to the expanding “food desert” in the southern United States.

According to the American Nutrition Association, “Food deserts are defined as parts of the country vapid of fresh fruit, vegetables, and other

(Continued on page 8.)



Pictured above, Pickens’ only grocery store was open on Thursday, March 21, with the majority of its store shelves empty with no produce or apparent frozen food in stock. Only dry goods were displayed on store shelves. (Photo by Matthew Breazeale)

50¢ Single Copy



Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Partly Cloudy	A.M. Clouds/P.M. Sun	Thunderstorms	A.M. Clouds/P.M. Sun	Partly Cloudy	Sunny	Partly Cloudy
75/52	75/57	71/41	57/35	61/38	69/43	73/50
Precip. Chance 10%	Precip. Chance 10%	Precip. Chance 90%	Precip. Chance 20%	Precip. Chance 10%	Precip. Chance 10%	Precip. Chance 10%

How to reach us

PHONE • 834-1151
FAX • 834-1074
EMAIL
hcherald@gmail.com